1998 Washington State Population Survey
NOTES FOR DATA REVISION RELEASED JANUARY 7, 1999

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T HIS DOCUMENT explains changes made to the 1998 Washington State Population Survey (SPS) since the data release of September 21, 1998. These changes are incorporated into the first revision of the SPS data released on January 8, 1999. Four areas of revision are presented in this document: (1) New Variables; (2) Variables Removed; (3) Variables Content Changes; and (4) Data Tabulation Changes.

1. New Variables

➢ HHPOVLEV

Household poverty level. This variable contains the household income as a percent of the federal poverty level. The calculation is based on the thresholds used by the Bureau of the Census for households of different compositions (mainly number of people, number of children, and age of household head). The data released on September 21, 1998 already contained a variable for the family poverty level, calculated with the same method.

➢ HHPOVCAT

Recode of household poverty level. This is a variable containing recodes of the variable HHPOVLEV. While HHPOVLEV is a continuous variable, HHPOVCAT is a categorical variable containing the following five categories:

> 1 = 0-99% (FPL)
> 2 = 100-199% (FPL)
> 3 = 200-299% (FPL)
> 4 = 300-399% (FPL)
> 5 = 400% or higher (FPL).

2. Variables Removed

Several variables were removed from the September 21, 1998 release. Some of these variables were removed because they cannot be used alone and composite variables have already been created to replace them. For example, Q4P13 from the survey question "How much did you earn from your main job, excluding tips and commissions?" This question was followed by another one (UNIT), which asked for the payment unit on

which the answer for Q4P13 was based. The units used include "yearly," "monthly," "twice a month," "every two weeks," "weekly," and "hourly." When used without incorporating the unit information from UNIT, the variable Q4P13 does not provide useful information.   The information in these two variables was transferred to the composite variables WGWK1ST (weekly earnings from last week's main job) and WGHR1ST (hourly earnings from last week's main job).

Some of the variables removed (e.g. Q4P13 – main activity or duty of last week's main job) contain open-ended text only, which has not been coded. These variables will be added back into a future release after they are coded.

The variable CNTRY (country lived one year ago) was also removed because of the extreme small number of incidences for individual countries and the large margin of error it carries.

The following is a complete list of the variables removed from the September 21, 1998 release of the 1998 SPS:

CNTRY	-	Country lived in one year ago
Q4P13	-	Usual activities or duties at last week's main job
Q4P14	-	Earnings from last week's main job, excl OT, tips
UNIT	-	Unit of earnings for Q4P14
Q4P15	-	Earnings from last week's main jobs, just OT, tips
UNIT2	-	Unit of earnings for Q4P15
Q4P18	-	Earnings from last week's other jobs, excl OT, tips
UNIT3	-	Unit of earnings for Q4P18
Q4P19	-	Earnings from last week's other jobs, just OT, tips
UNIT4	-	Unit of earnings for Q4P19
Q4P40	-	Kind of business or industry of last job
Q4P41	-	Kind of work did at last job
Q5P13	-	Usual activities or duties at main job 1997
Q6P1	-	Earnings from job held longest in 1997 (flag)
Q6P4	-	Earnings from all other jobs in 1997 (flag)
Q6P9A	-	Exact HH income above/below <median>

3. Variable Changes

There are two major types of changes made to individual variables. The first one involves the imputation of household income (HHINC) for households where such income is missing (due to "don't know," "refused," or "not ascertained"). The change in HHINC also triggers changes in the composite variables that were created using information from HHINC.

The other major type of change involves recoding. For example, all "yes/no" variables are recoded to 1 for "yes" and 0 for "no" (instead of 2 for "no"). In addition, several

categorical variables that had a large category of "other" are now recoded to extract more information from the "other" category.

The following is a list of the variables and the changes made to them

➢ HHINC
Household income. In the September 21, 1998 release, HHINC contained household income either directly reported by the respondents or imputed with income ranges reported by the respondents. In this update, the income of households that reported no exact amount of income nor ranges of income was imputed using regression modeling. Thus, in this release HHINC contains no missing data.

➢ HHINC_I
Household income imputation flag (for HHINC). The code 1 stands for households for which no imputation was performed. The code 2 is used for households for which the income was imputed using reported income ranges. The code 3 is used for households where income was imputed using regression modeling.

➢ Other variables changed due to regression imputation in HHINC:

NWAGEINC	–	Nonwage household income
FAMINC	–	Family income.
POVLEV	–	Family poverty level.
POVCAT	–	Family poverty level recodes.
PPNWAGE	–	Personal nonwage income.

➢ FNLWGT
Final weight. In this release, FNLWGT is rounded to an integer value.

➢ Yes/No Variables
All Yes/No variables are recoded to have 1 for "yes" and 0 for "no." These variables are:

RSDNC	-	Household have more than one residence
Q2P2	-	Own/renter of residence
Q2P6_I	-	Sex imputation flag
AGE_I	-	Age imputation flag
Q2P11	-	Anyone parent/guardian of this member
Q2P16	-	Hispanic origin
Q2P16_I	-	Hispanic origin imputation flag
Q2P13_I	-	Race imputation flag
Q215P	-	Ever served in US armed forces
Q2P15	-	Now on active duty in armed forces
Q2P18	-	Born a US citizen
CITIZEN	-	US Citizen
Q2P23	-	One year ago living in same WA county
Q2P25(?)	-	All lived with householder one year ago

Q2P26	-	Did not live with R one year ago
Q3P2B	-	Rent with a government subsidy
Q4P1	-	Anyone in HH has a business, farm, or is self-employed
Q4P42	-	Health condition lasted 6 months or more
Q442C	-	Health cond. limit kind/amount of work
Q442B	-	Health cond. prevent from working
OWNBUS	-	Own a business or farm
Q4P3	-	Last week have FT/PT job (for pay)
Q4P4	-	Last week did any unpaid work in family business
Q4P5	-	Receive any payments or profits from bus. or farm
Q4P20	-	If usual work < 35 hrs, want work FT
Q4P23	-	Consider main job a temporary one
Q4P26	-	Member of a workers union
Q4P27	-	Given indication recall work next 6 months
Q4P29	-	Job from which laid off is FT (>=35 hrs)
Q4P32	-	Doing anything to find work last 4 weeks
Q4P35	-	Last week could've started a job if offered
Q4P37	-	Currently want job either FT or PT
Q5P2	-	Did any temp, PT, or seasonal work for few days in 97
CHECK	-	Job held longest in 97 same as last week
Q5P14	-	Owner of the business in 1997
Q6P6P	-	Anyone receive any money from SS, etc.
WHO2	-	Received payment in 1997
Q6P11	-	Current HH member receive public assistance
Q6P12	-	Current HH member receive SS
Q6P13	-	Current HH member receive unemployment ins.
Q6P14	-	Current HH member receive workers comp
INS_EMP	-	Employer or union provided health plan
INS_MDCR	-	Medicare
INS_MAA	-	Medicaid and other MAA programs
INS_OWN	-	Health plan bought on own
INS_MIL	-	Military health plan
INS_BHP	-	Basic Health Plan
INS_OUT	-	Health plan bought by someone outside HH
INS_OTH	-	Other health plan
CUR_INS	-	Currently covered by a health plan
Q7P5	-	Health plan available through job
Q7P3Z	-	Everyone else in HH have same health plan
INS97_7	-	Covered 7+ months in 1997
INS97_12	-	Covered 12 months in 1997
Q7P14	-	Anyone in HH have permanent health conditions
Q7P15	-	Have permanent disability
Q8P6	-	HH have personal computer
Q8P7	-	HH use PC to communicate
Q8P11	-	Current employer – educational assistance
Q811A	-	Current employer – on site child care

Q811B	-	Current employer – child care subsidies
Q811C	-	Current employer – paid vac/sick leave
Q811D	-	Current employer – retirement benefits
Q813P	-	Hispanic or Latino origin

- ➤ **Q4P6**
  Main reason did not have a job last week. Codes 11 through 21 are added:
    11. with a job
    12. moving/relocating
    13. job out of season
    14. out of business
    15. vacationing
    16. pregnancy
    17. too young
    18. bad weather
    19. unemployed/looking for work
    20. just lost/quit job
    21. volunteer work

- ➤ **Q4P39**
  Main reason left last job. Codes 9 through 17 are added:
    9. start own business/become self-employed
    10. moving/relocating
    11. marriage
    12. laid off
    13. out of business
    14. fired
    15. still with a job
    16. downsized
    17. didn't want to work

- ➤ **Q5P3**
  Main reason did not work in 1997. Codes 10 through 25 are added:
    10. paid vacation/holidays/scheduled time off
    11. job out of season
    12. laid off
    13. waiting to be called back
    14. slack business
    15. transportation problems
    16. moving/relocating
    17. was employed
    18. in-between jobs
    19. lost/quit job
    20. bad weather
    21. pregnancy
    22. temporary/part-time job

23. unemployed/looking for work
24. under age
25. job not ready to start

> Q5P5
  Main reason did not look for work. Codes 9 through 16 are added:
    9. unpaid vacation
    10. paid vacation/holidays/schedules time off
    11. waiting to be called back
    12. transportation problems
    13. moving/relocating
    14. laid off
    15. did not want to work/had enough money to not work
    16. was working/looking for a job

> Q7P6
  Reason doesn't have health insurance. The following codes are created:
    1. can't afford/too costly
    2. not needed/healthy
    3. not provided/paid by employer
    4. plan wanted not available
    5. lost job and benefits
    6. applied/waiting for approval
    7. declined by plan/waiting too long
    8. self-employed/unemployed
    9. did not bother to enroll
    10. was not informed about insurance
    11. did not work long enough/part-time job
    12. other

> PRIMECOV
  Primary health plan. It is recoded as follows:

September 21 Release	This Release
1 = Employer plan	1 = Employer or union provided health plan
2 = Union plan	1 = Employer or union provided health plan
3 = Medicare	2 = Medicare
4 = Medicaid	3 = Medicaid and other MAA programs
5 = Self bought plan	4 = Self bought plan
6 = DSHS MAA programs	3 = Medicaid and other MAA programs
7 = Military plan	5 = Military plan
8 = Indian Health Services	(Plan other than IHS is used)
9 = BHP	6 = BHP
10 = Plan outside HH	7 = Plan outside HH
11 = Other	8 = Other

4. Data Tabulation Changes

As a consequence of the rounding of the weight variable, all tabulations are updated, although the change is less than 0.01%. In addition, other variables mentioned in section 3 were updated, too for their respective reasons. Finally, tabulations of continuous variables are modified to contain weighted counts and medians, whereas in the September 21, 1998 release only the mean was weighted. This change involves tabulations for the following variables:

AGE	-	Age
Q3P3	-	Market value of property
Q3P4	-	Assessed value of property
HOURWEEK	-	Hours worked per week at all jobs
WGWK1ST	-	Weekly earnings from last week's main job
WGHR1ST	-	Hourly earnings from last week's main job
WGWKOTH	-	Weekly earnings from last week's other jobs
WGHROTH	-	Hourly earnings from last week's other jobs
Q4P28	-	As of end last week # weeks been on layoff
Q5P1	-	During 1997, # weeks had job
Q5P4	-	# weeks in 1997 actively looked for work
Q5P7	-	In weeks that worked # hrs usually worked/wk
Q5P8	-	# weeks <35 hrs that worked in 1997
Q6P1A	-	Dollar amount from job held longest in 1997
PPNWAGE	-	1997 personal nonwage income
PEARN97	-	1997 personal earnings
WAGEHR97	-	Hourly wage in 1997
WAGEWK98	-	Weekly wage in 1997
Q6P9	-	Household income in 1997 – exact amount
HHINC	-	1997 household total income
HHEARN97	-	1997 household total earnings
NWAGEINC	-	1997 household nonwage income
FAMINC97	-	Family income in 1997
POVLEV	-	Family poverty level
Q8P1	-	# total hours child spent in child care
Q8P2	-	# of these (Q8P1) hours paid child care
Q8P4	-	# of minutes getting to school/work
Q8P8	-	# of times made internet purchase last year